

Mortimer, Adam (MAG)

From: Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN)
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 7:50 PM
To: DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN)
Cc: Letang, Chris (SOLGEN); Okada, Marc (SOLGEN)
Subject: Strategic Updates - 2022 02 23

FYI & on behalf of Chris,

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-23 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the *Emergencies Act* to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures would be geographically targeted and time limited.

On February 21, 2022, the House of Commons voted in support of the government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act*.

On February 23, 2022, the federal government announced the revocation of the *Emergencies Act*. PM Trudeau stated that the situation is no longer an emergency and announced a joint committee of parliamentarians that will review the invocation of the act. The inquiry will also examine the funding, influence and disinformation that supported the illegal blockade and occupations.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

No significant protest-related issues were reported in Ottawa today. Police continue to maintain security around the Ottawa downtown core. Police have reduced the size of the secured area, with checkpoints being collapsed to Laurier Avenue. This has opened up more of the red zone to civilian movement with increased roving patrols.

Fewer vehicles were observed today at the Arnprior site where some convoy participants have congregated. Additional fields have been plowed at White Lake Road and Richardson Side

Road. Portable toilets have been dropped off and there is call out to all protestors/supporters that this will be their new rallying point.

A convoy of 30 additional cars, campers and pick-up trucks arrived at the Splendron Farms rallying site in Vankleek Hills on February 23, 2022 (today).

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging from some leadership figures within the convoy are advising supporters to leave Ottawa. Other leadership figures have called on supporters to re-group and plan for next steps.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) continues to monitor for future protests.

All roads have been re-opened with exception of Hospital Row and Queen's Park (University Ave. from Bloor St. to Queen St.). Hoskin Avenue can now be used to access Queen's Park Crescent SB and Wellesley Street to Queen's Park Crescent NB are now open. Queen's Park Crescent remains closed SB at Bloor St. West and NB at College St.

Open Source Reporting

Open source research indicates that a March for Freedom is planned at Queens Park on February 26, 2022 starting at noon.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic is flowing freely. No concerns or issues to report.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

No new reporting. Traffic is flowing; no concerns or issues to report.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

No new reporting. Traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

No new reporting. OPP reporting has previously identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

Open Source Reporting

Social media posts identifying Members of Parliament (MPs) that supported the *Emergencies Act* in the House of Commons continue to circulate online.

Media reporting indicates that on February 19, 2022, convoy protestors at the legislature in Winnipeg, Manitoba, stated that they would not move until they get a meeting with the Prime Minister. The reporting notes that the blockade of the main street leading to the Manitoba Legislative Building is entering its third week. A spokesman for the group reportedly indicated that he is disappointed with the police actions in Ottawa.

Open source research identified social media messaging from a prominent anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist calling for nation-wide “Freedom Chain” across the Trans-Canada Highway on March, 5, 2022. The Toronto-based influencer and organizer has figured prominently as an opponent of public health measures intended to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

Other local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule below for additional information.

ASSESSMENT

All available information indicates that “freedom convoy” protests will continue for the foreseeable future.

Ongoing local protests, convoys, civil disobedience, and, possibly, acts of mischief may be expected against government facilities and elected officials at all levels; law enforcement; and any individual or entity, such as towing companies, that have opposed the blockade or assisted law enforcement to end it.

It is highly likely that critical infrastructure, such as major highways and roadways, border crossings, bridges, airports and railways may be targets for disruption. Simultaneous or sequential protests may be organized with little or no warning in different locations to keep law enforcement reactive, and to strain law enforcement resources.

Some participants and supporters of the freedom movement have expressed and demonstrated hostility towards public figures and persons in positions of authority in Canada. Elected officials at all levels of government, as well as members of law enforcement and the judiciary, may be targeted for harassment or intimidation in response to the enforcement action and arrests at recent blockades.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Daily

Freedom Rally Ottawa

Daily rally at the Canadian War Museum. U/K number of participants. Limited participation as of yet.

February 21-25

Freedom Week

Organizer associated to the Ottawa truck convoy is encouraging individuals to participate in a week of civil disobedience.

February 24, 2022

Rothesay, New Brunswick

East Coast Hold Line – Convoy to Ottawa

Friday, February 25, 2022

Hawkesbury

Support Protest for those arrested in Ottawa

Saturday February 26, 2022

Trans-Canada Highway

“Freedom Chain” across Canada to take place on Trans-Canada Highway

Toronto

It's Time to Say NO to Mandatory Vaccinations

Queen's Park

Toronto Freedom March

Attendance U/K

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

Hamilton

Freedom of Choice Rally – City Hall

Toronto Freedom March

Posted on the Freedom Toronto Facebook Page. Attendance unknown.

Windsor

Bake Sale for the Freedom Fighter Defence

Peterborough

Slow Roll meeting at Metro Parking Lot 1154 Chemong Rd.

Smith Falls to Almonte

Convoy from Smith Falls Community Centre to Almonte

Attendance U/K

February 27 2022

Orangeville

Dufferin – Caledon Community Gathering

Rotary Park Orangeville

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

Detroit, Michigan

Potential Protest at Canadian Embassy in Detroit, Michigan

Washington, D.C., USA

Several trucker convoys are expected to converge on Washington DC in early to mid-March.

Disruptions to traffic expected on major roadways beginning 23 Feb 2022. Major disruptions anticipated in the Washington DC area from 05-07 March 22. May impact the Canadian Diplomatic Mission located at 501 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC.

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